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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/609,220	06/27/2003	Paul J. Amo	1199_001	7567
20874	7590	06/08/2004		
WALL MARJAMA & BILINSKI 101 SOUTH SALINA STREET SUITE 400 SYRACUSE, NY 13202			EXAMINER BOSWELL, CHRISTOPHER J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/609,220

Applicant(s)

AMO, PAUL J. 

Examiner

Christopher Boswell

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 6-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5, 9, and 12-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/27/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 9 and 12-14 are objected to because of the following informalities: the aforementioned claims lack antecedent basis for recited limitations. In claim 1, line 9, the limitation "said locking mechanism" is recited, though there is no preceding reference to any sort of locking mechanism. Regarding claims 12-14, line 2, the limitation "said arms" is recited yet not mention of this limitation is found within the family of the method claims, the examiner continued prosecutions as equating "said arms" with the bracelet sections. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, and 6-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 2,388,766 to Ruttiman.

Ruttiman discloses a set of handcuffs with a pair of openable bracelet sections (figure 2) each of the bracelet sections includes a locking mechanism (figures 3 and 4), a linkage means (30) for tethering the bracelet sections together, and a restraint mechanism (28) connected to the linkage means, where the restraint mechanism permits a bracelet section to be rotated about a linkage axis, as in claim 1.

Ruttiman also discloses at least one of the bracelet sections can be rotated and locked in a plurality of predetermined angular positions (column 2, lines 17-18), as in claims 6 and 7, as well as the linkage means having a means for permitting the bracelet sections to be folded onto one another for storage (the chain is being capable of being folded in half), as in claim 8.

Wherein, Ruttiman anticipates the handcuffs claimed therein, where Ruttiman discloses a set of handcuffs, two bracelets sections (figure 2), and a swivel mechanism (28) to pivot the bracelets (column 2, lines 17-18), and thus the device would perform the same method as recited. Under the principles of inherency, if a prior art device, in its normal and usual operation, would necessarily perform the method claimed, then the method claimed will be considered to be anticipated by the prior art device. When the prior art device is the same as a device described in the specification, it can be assumed the device will inherently perform the same process. *In re King*, 802 F.2d 1324, 231 USPQ 136 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Additionally, it would have been inherent to cuff an individual either behind or in front of an individual, as in claims 10 and 11, and Ruttiman's handcuff is capable of rotating the bracelets relative to each other, about a linkage axis and position the bracelets to a predetermined angle (column 2, lines 17-18), as in claims 12-14.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that of a handcuff assembly with a restraint mechanism the includes a ratchet gear, with a number of teeth disposed therein, rotatable about a linkage axis, and at least one ratchet pawl engageable with the teeth of the gear.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to handcuffs:

U.S. Patent Number 6,349,574 to Lurie, U.S. Patent Number 4,694,666 to Bellingham et al., U.S. Patent Number 3,423,871 to Foley, U.S. Patent Number 1,572,262 to Abbenzeller, U.S. Patent Number 1,342,334 to Kruger, U.S. Patent Number 372,510 to Bean, British Patent Number 2,268,778 to Taylor.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Boswell whose telephone number is (703) 305-4067. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3676

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. Stodola". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "Stodola" clearly legible.

CJB
May 28, 2004

DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600